

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 116255
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-02 ICAE-00 /027 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:FZBROWN:JY

APPROVED BY EA/VLC:FZBROWN

-----036496 061705Z /46

O P 061612Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 116255

JAKARTA FOR ASST. SEC. RICHARD HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN, VM, UX

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF HUMPHREY-HUNG TRIAL

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MAY 6 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE
HEADLINED "SPY CASE TRIAL TOLD DOCUMENTS HURT SECURITY":

BEGIN TEXT:

A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL MAINTAINED UNDER MORE THAN FOUR
HOURS OF CROSS-EXAMINATION YESTERDAY THAT ABOUT 100 U.S.
DIPLOMATIC CABLES ALLEGEDLY STOLEN BY AN ESPIONAGE RING
SERIOUSLY BREACHED THE NATIONAL SECURITY, COMPROMISED
SECRET SOURCES AND TIPPED OFF THE VIETNAMESE TO U.S. DIPLO-
MATIC STRATEGY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 116255

DEFENSE ATTORNEY FOR RONALD L. HUMPHREY, THE UNITED STATES
INFORMATION AGENCY OFFICIAL ACCUSED OF STEALING THE DOCU-
MENTS, AND FOR DAVID TRUONG, THE VIETNAMESE EXPATRIATE WHO
IS ACCUSED OF PASSING THE DOCUMENTS TO A GOVERNMENT INFOR-
MANT, ATTACKED KENNETH M. QUINN'S STATEMENTS THROUGHOUT
THE FIFTH DAY OF THE VIETNAMESE ESPIONAGE TRIAL IN
ALEXANDRIA.

BUT QUINN NEVER RETREATED FROM HIS TESTIMONY.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS CHARGED THAT THE STOLEN CABLES WERE DELIVERED BY A COURIER TO THE VIETNAMESE IN PARIS, AND TRUONG AND HUMPHREY ARE ACCUSED OF ESPIONAGE, CONSPIRACY AND STEALING GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS. THE SENSITIVITY OF THE DOCUMENTS, HOWEVER, IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE CASE BECAUSE OF THE DEFENSE CLAIMS THE DOCUMENTS CONTAINED ONLY "DIPLOMATIC CHIT-CHAT" AND OTHER MEANINGLESS INFORMATION.

DEFENSE ATTORNEYS CONTENDED IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT IN ALEXANDRIA THAT MOST OF THE INFORMATION IN THE CABLES HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE PUBLIC AND SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED AS TOP SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL IN THE FIRST PLACE.

AND UNDER QUESTIONING, QUINN CONCEDED THAT THE INFORMATION IN MOST OF THE DOCUMENTS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE PUBLIC.

BUT, HE SAID, DISCLOSURE OF ANY CLASSIFIED MATERIAL--EVEN MATERIAL THAT IS PUBLICLY KNOWN--IS DANGEROUS BECAUSE IT VIOLATES AGREEMENTS MADE WITH SOURCES WHO PROVIDED THE INFORMATION, BECAUSE IT REVEALS INFORMATION GIVEN IN CONFIDENCE ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES AND BECAUSE IT GIVES UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 116255

U.S. ENEMIES INSIGHT INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S BARGAINING STRATEGIES.

THE DANGER OF DISCLOSING A SOURCE, QUINN TESTIFIED, IS REVEALED IN CABLES THAT MERELY STATE THE WIDELY REPORTED ASSERTION THAT SOVIET RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM WERE DETERIORATING. THE CABLES IDENTIFIED THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION ONLY AS "A THIRD WORLD SOURCE LIVING IN HANOI," BUT "BITS OF INFORMATION IN THE CABLE NARROWED THE POSSIBILITIES" OF WHO THE SOURCE COULD BE TO "PROBABLY AN INDIAN," QUINN SAID. HE TESTIFIED THAT THERE WERE FEW INDIANS IN HANOI AND THUS THE INFORMANT MIGHT BE IDENTIFIED.

QUINN'S MAJOR POINT, REPEATED MANY TIMES, WAS THAT THE CAUSAL AND CHRONIC RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SOURCES AROUND THE WORLD, WOULD CAUSE THOSE SOURCES TO DRY UP.

"WHAT ABOUT DIPLOMATIC GOSSIP?" ASKED HUMPHREY'S DEFENSE ATTORNEY MARK L. FOSTER. "LIKE THE CABLE WHICH REMARKS ABOUT HOW THE FINNISH AMBASSADOR IS PROBABLY HENPECKED

BY HIS WIFE?"

"THAT TYPE OF INFORMATION, WHILE SEEMINGLY INNOCUOUS, IS USED BY US IN BIOGRAPHICAL DATA, IF THEY'RE STRONG PEOPLE,

WEAK PEOPLE, THE EFFECTS THEIR WIVES HAVE ON THEM," QUINN RESPONDED.

"THEN THE FINNISH AMBASSADOR SEES IT AND SAYS 'THAT'S WHAT THE AMERICANS THINK OF US, THEN I WON'T TALK TO THEM ANYMORE,'"

FOSTER ASKED QUINN ABOUT A CABLE SAYING THAT U.S. DIPLOMATS COMPLAINED BECAUSE UPPER-ECHELON VIETNAMESE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 116255

OFFICIALS DID NOT ATTEND AN AMERICAN COCKTAIL PARTY. QUINN SAID THE CABLE WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT SHOWED THAT LOWER-LEVEL VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS DID ATTEND AND THAT WAS A SIGN OF IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

FOSTER GAVE ANOTHER EXAMPLE. ONE CABLE QUOTED A VIETNAMESE OFFICIAL COMPLAINING OF THE INCREASED NUMBER OF PROSTITUTES IN SAIGON.

"THE STATEMENT . . . IN AND OF ITSELF WOULD NEVER BE CLASSIFIED, AS FAR AS I KNOW," QUINN ANSWERED, SMILING. BUT HE SAID THE REVELATION OF THE STATEMENT'S SOURCE WOULD PROBABLY DISCOURAGE THAT SOURCE FROM GIVING THE U.S. INFORMATION AGAIN.

"PROSTITUTION IN THE STREETS IS A SUBJECT THAT'S QUITE SENSITIVE TO THE VIETNAMESE," QUINN SAID.

TRUONG'S ATTORNEY, MICHAEL E. TIGAR, POUNDED AWAY AT QUINN'S TESTIMONY BY ASKING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WHY THE INFORMATION IN DOZENS OF CABLES BREACHED NATIONAL SECURITY.

TIGAR WAS TRYING TO MAKE THE POINT THAT GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS MAY BE OVER-CLASSIFIED.

QUINN FAILED, HOWEVER, TO RISE TO THE BAIT. "IT'S MY ASSUMPTION," HE SAID, "THAT (CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS) ARE ALWAYS PROPERLY CLASSIFIED."

QUINN ACKNOWLEDGED YESTERDAY THAT HE HAD INITIALLY ASSESSED THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE LEAKED CABLES AS "MINOR" AND THAT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 116255

HE HAD DETERMINED THAT THEIR POSSESSION BY HANOI OFFICIALS WOULD HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND VIETNAM.

QUINN SAID YESTERDAY, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN HE ASSESSED THE DOCUMENT LAST SUMMER HE HAD GIVEN THEM ONLY A "CURSORY" REVIEW AND THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN ALL THE DOCUMENTS

NOW BEING DISCUSSED IN THE TRIAL. HE ALSO SAID THAT HIS INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF "MINOR" DAMAGE MEANT THAT THE DAMAGE WAS MINOR IN COMPARISON TO THE PROBLEMS THAT WOULD HAVE RESULTED IF MORE SENSITIVE DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN LEAKED.

EACH TIME A DOCUMENT WOULD BE PRESENTED, QUINN UNFLINCHINGLY WOULD TESTIFY THAT ITS RELEASE WOULD BREACH NATIONAL SECURITY.

THREE TIMES DURING 1977, TWICE DURING MAY AND ONCE IN DECEMBER, THE U.S. CONDUCTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH VIETNAM ON NORMALIZING RELATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT ALLEGES TRUONG AND HUMPHREY ATTEMPTED TO AFFECT THOSE NEGOTIATIONS BY PASSING DOCUMENTS TO HANOI OFFICIALS IN PARIS.

QUINN SAID NINE CABLES RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE SENT. FOUR "REVEAL TO HANOI CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FROM" GOVERNMENTS IN SINGAPORE, THAILAND, JAPAN AND MALAYSIA THAT WAS GIVEN TO THE U.S. ONE OF THE DOCUMENTS WAS A SECRET ASSESSMENT BY THE U.S. CONSUL GENERAL IN HONG KONG ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROGRESS OF US NEGOTIATIONS WITH VIETNAM AND VIETNAM'S CLOSENESS TO CHINA, INFORMATION "VALUABLE TO THE VIETNAMESE IN BARGAINING," QUINN SAID.

QUINN SAID THE FOURTH NEGOTIATING SESSION, TENTATIVELY PLANNED IN HAWAII, WAS CANCELLED, POSSIBLY AS A RESULT

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 116255

OF THE ESPIONAGE ALLEGATIONS. WHEN HUMPHREY AND TRUONG WERE INDICTED, VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR DINH BA THI WAS NAMED AS AN UNINDICTED COCONSPIRATOR. SEVERAL DAYS LATER THE STATE DEPARTMENT ASKED THAT THI BE EXPELLED. HE WAS THEN RECALLED BY HANOI.

ONE OF THE CABLES DETAILED IN COURT BY TIGAR CONTAINED

INFORMATION THAT QUINN SAID WAS NOT PUBLICLY KNOWN. THE INFORMATION WAS THAT THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAD STARTED SEISMIC STUDIES IN THE GULF OF TONKIN AND WAS PLANNING TO DRILL FOR OIL IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

IN COURT PAPERS FILED YESTERDAY, DEFENSE ATTORNEY CLAIMED THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT PRESENT TO THE GRAND JURY A LETTER MARKED "SECRET" FROM THE CIA THAT THE LAWYERS SAID COULD PROVE EXCULPATORY.

THE LETTER, DATED MARCH 13, OUTLINED POSSIBLE STRATEGIES FOR PROSECUTORS TO BUTTRESS THEIR CONTENTION THAT THE DOCUMENTS WERE RELATED TO NATIONAL DEFENSE.

"WE HAVE REVIEWED THE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS AND THE MEMORANDUM FROM MR. DUNHAM (AN ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR). AS YOU ANTICIPATED, IT COULD BE A VERY CLOSE CALL." THE LETTER BEGAN.
END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS COMMENTS, ESPIONAGE, TRIALS, COURT PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE116255
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FZBROWN:JY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780193-1105
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780585/aaaacuxb.tel
Line Count: 243
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 67563aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2769160
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS COVERAGE OF HUMPHREY-HUNG TRIAL FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MAY 6 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE HEADLINED "SPY CASE TRIAL TOLD DOCUMENTS HURT SECU
TAGS: SOPN, VM, US
To: JAKARTA
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/67563aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014